

## National Board Certification of Iowa Teachers

### What is National Board Certification?

The National Board Certification (NBC) Program is designed and administered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). Certification is available to teachers nationwide and requires candidates to demonstrate their teaching practice as measured against high and rigorous standards. Since 1987, nearly 64,000 teachers have achieved the certification nationwide.

### History of NBC in Iowa

The State of Iowa began funding awards to teachers achieving National Board Certification in FY 1999.

During the first year of the Program, certified teachers received an annual stipend of \$5,000 for ten years. The stipend was reduced to \$2,500 for those certified in subsequent years. To receive the stipend, recipients must continue to teach in Iowa schools.

Teachers seeking National Board Certification were also reimbursed for one-half of the \$2,500 registration fee upon application. The remaining half was reimbursed upon achieving certification.

Between FY 1999 and FY 2008, 564 Iowa teachers achieved certification. Of those, 457 were still receiving awards in FY 2008.

For FY 2008 and FY 2009, funding was provided to cover commitments to teachers that registered for National Board Certification by December 31, 2007. This effectively brings the awards to an end. The commitment to fund existing awards will extend for ten years through FY 2018.

### State Funding

The Program originally received an annual General Fund appropriation. In

2002 it became part of the Student Achievement and Teacher Quality Program and has since been funded by an allocation from the annual Teacher Quality funding.

The Program began with an FY 1999 appropriation of \$250,000. Annual funding for the Program in subsequent years has ranged from \$700,000 to \$2.2 million. A total of \$14.3 million in State funds has been allocated to the Program from FY 1999 through FY 2009.

The State's funding commitment is estimated at \$1.7 million in FY 2009 and will decrease annually through FY 2018 as ten-year awards expire.

### NBC Teachers in Iowa Schools

National research studies have identified teacher quality as a primary factor impacting student achievement. It has also been demonstrated that students from low-income families frequently achieve at lower levels. Placing the strongest teachers in schools serving the largest low-income populations may be one way to improve student achievement.

In Iowa, decisions regarding the hiring and placement of teachers are made at the school and district levels. The NBC Program required only that participants continue teaching in the state's public school system.

In the Fall of 2007, there were 448 National Board Certified teachers employed in 156 Iowa school districts.

Of those teachers, 189 (42.2%) were teaching in 50 districts where 35.0% or more of the students qualified for free or reduced-price lunch. A total of 123 Iowa districts met the 35.0% standard in the 2007-2008 school year.

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### State Funding for NBC Awards

FY 1999 - \$	250,000
FY 2000 - \$	1,000,000
FY 2001 - \$	1,380,000
FY 2002 - \$	1,900,000
FY 2003 - \$	1,400,000
FY 2004 - \$	700,000
FY 2005 - \$	1,100,000
FY 2006 - \$	2,000,000
FY 2007 - \$	1,915,000
FY 2008 - \$	1,002,500
FY 2009 - \$	1,622,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 14,270,000</b>

### FY 2008 Districts and NBC Teachers by FRPL Enrollment

% of Students Eligible for FRPL	No. of Districts	No. of Districts with NBC Teachers	No. of NBC Teachers
50%+	23	10	56
40-49%	49	21	53
35-39%	51	19	80
0-34%	241	106	259
	364	156	448

FRPL = Free or Reduced-Price Lunch

### More Information

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

<http://www.nbpts.org/>

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**Iowa School Districts with NBC Teachers - Based on Percent of Enrollment Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL)**

